

REMARKS

Applicant thanks the Examiner for carefully reviewing the application. Please reconsider this application in view of the above amendments and the following remarks.

Disposition of the Claims

Claims 6, 7, and 17-21 are pending. Claims 20-21 were previously withdrawn and are canceled by this reply, without prejudice or disclaimer. Therefore, claims 6-7 and 17-19 are pending. Claim 6 is independent. Claims 7 and 17-19 depend, directly or indirectly, from claim 6.

Amendment to the Claims

Claims 6 and 8 have been amended to clarify the inventions recited. No new matter is introduced by the amendments. Furthermore, these amendments are made according to the Examiner's suggestions to place the application in condition for allowance. Therefore, entry of these amendments is respectfully requested.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 6, 7 and 17-19 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over NCI-CGAP EST sequence (<http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/ncicgap>, Accession AI241478, mRNA linear EST 01-DEC-1998).

Claim 6 has been amended according to the Examiner's suggestion – i.e., amending “having” to “consisting of.” (Office Action, p. 8). Accordingly, withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

Rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 112

Claim 6 has been amended to delete "hLRTM4 gene," as suggested by the Examiner. (Office Action, p. 9). Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

Non-Elected Claims

Non-elected claims have been canceled to place this application in condition for allowance.

Conclusion

Applicant believes this reply is fully responsive to all outstanding issues and places this application in condition for allowance. If this belief is incorrect, or other issues arise, the Examiner is encouraged to contact the undersigned or his associates at the telephone number listed below. Please apply any charges not covered, or any credits, to Deposit Account 50-0591 (Reference Number 17257/005001).

Dated: December 18, 2009

Respectfully submitted,

By 

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